

PRESS RELEASE

Congressman John Conyers, Jr.

**Fourteenth District, Michigan
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary
Dean, Congressional Black Caucus**

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CONYERS CHALLENGES HOUSE REPUBLICANS TO PASS A CLEAN 'AMBER ALERT' BILL

Congressman John Conyers, Jr. (D-MI), Ranking Member of the House Judiciary Committee, issued the following statement in reaction to the safe recovery of 15-year-old Elizabeth Smart in Utah yesterday:

“I am extremely pleased to hear that Elizabeth Smart has been safely returned to the loving environment of the Smart family. I can only imagine the toll that this unfortunate event has taken on Elizabeth and her family throughout the nine-month-long ordeal.

I must also admit that I am very disappointed with the approach being taken by the Republican majority in the House to deal with the very serious problem of child abduction. If ever there was an issue the parties could come together on in a bipartisan way, this would seem to be it. Instead, what we have in the House is a bill that includes the non-controversial Amber alert provisions and far more controversial provisions including new death penalty offenses and mandatory minimum sentences. It's almost as if the majority has gone out of its way to load the bill up and make it more difficult to get it passed. The Senate has already acted on this matter and unanimously worked to pass its bipartisan version of the bill.

With the limited amount of time that Members of Congress will have to focus on the many pieces of legislation that will come before this body this year, we need to act now to pass a clean child abduction bill and send it on to the President for his signature.

I urge the House Republicans to pass the Amber alert bill into law and protect our nation's children.”

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